(c) and (d) The suggestions to make agriculture sector more lucrative in order to encourage capital investment in agriculture sector include ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers, developing appropriate technology to increase yields and reduce cost of cultivation, promoting private-public-partnership, removing restrictions and regulations on private sector participation in setting up marketing and post-harvest infrastructure, allowing alternative marketing channels such as contract farming etc.

Pending proposals of Karnataka

1925. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the various proposals of Karnataka pending with the Union Government;

(b) the reasons for the proposals not getting Union Government's clearance;

(c) since when the proposals are pending; and

(d) by when Union Government plan to clear the pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. There are no proposals of Karnataka pending with the Planning Commission.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Current poverty line

1926. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the poverty line in terms of per capita income, which is currently being used by the Planning Commission; and

(b) the figures of poverty, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The poverty line currently being used by the Planning Commission is based on per capita consumption expenditure and not on per capita income. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs.49.09 per month in the rural areas and Rs.56.64 per month in the urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in the rural areas and 2100 kcal in the urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356.30 per capita per month in the rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in the urban areas. The State-wise poverty lines are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The Planning Commission estimates state-wise poverty from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on